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BOROUGH OF DAVENTRY

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# ANNUAL REPORT

*of the*

# MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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FOR THE YEAR 1963

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F.H.R.T.M.  
M.O.H. Annual Report - 1963  
Borough of Derry

See page 22

11 Houses Demolished

In clearance areas

The figure 4 shown to be the 'Houses Demolished,' also 'Persons Displaced' and 'Families Displaced' for 1, 2 and 7 is incorrect.

No houses were demolished nor were any persons or families displaced. The answers to 1, 2 and 3 should, therefore, be nil in each case.

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# DAVENTRY BOROUGH COUNCIL

HEALTH DEPT.  
MOOT HALL  
DAVENTRY  
NORTHANTS  
Telephone Daventry 2174-5

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors  
of the Borough of Daventry,

I have the honour to present my eighth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the town incorporating that of the Public Health Inspector.

Since November 1962, when the Ministry of Housing and Local Government gave sanction for Daventry to become an overspill area for Birmingham, plans have been progressing for expansion. During the last year, no building has taken place, but the town looks forward to this new era with a confident satisfaction. The whole of the cramped central area of the town will probably be redeveloped. Elsewhere, the fine new town, already provided by the Council and private enterprise will be further expanded by the Birmingham scheme. The swimming pool has had an excellent second year and continues to provide a splendid amenity both for the town and surrounding district.

The population increase this year was from 5,980 to 6,060. The Birth Rate again declined, falling from 112 to 103. The Crude Rate being 17.0 (Standardised Rate 15.5). The national figure is 18.2.

There were 73 deaths, showing a fall of 29 on last year, and giving a Crude Rate of 12.04 and a Standardised Rate of 9.3, which is well below the national figure of 12.2. The higher Crude Rate being due to the presence in the town of an institution for the aged. Once again, the deaths show a preponderence of those diseases which occur in the more elderly members of the community, cancer and diseases of the heart and circulation, and a further decline in deaths from infectious diseases.

There was a considerable increase in the notifications of infectious diseases, rising to 207 from 61 last year. This was largely due to increase in measles notifications which continues in its biennial incidence. There were 16 cases of whooping cough, 19 cases of Sonne dysentery, and one case of food poisoning. Details concerning these will be given in the section on infectious diseases.

This year the County Medical Officer will not be providing immunisation and vaccination statistics relating to individual districts, but will be giving the figures for the County as a whole. I am therefore unable to comment on the public response to these very necessary procedures in

Daventry this year. However, the figures for the Town are usually very high, proving in the past, to be practically 100 per cent. I feel certain that this excellent response continues and I take this opportunity for thanking the public, the nursing staffs and the medical practitioners for their co-operation. To the latter, I express my continued appreciation of the particularly high standard of medical care which they give to the town and for the co-operation which the Health Department always received from them.

The proportion of elderly residents in the town continues to rise, and the needs of the older members of the community play an increasing part in the plans for health and welfare services. In this field, the voluntary organisations provide a most excellent service, and those who give so regularly and generously to this good cause, are carrying out a much-needed public service which is greatly appreciated. A full account of the activities of the voluntary services is given in the section on old people in this report.

In the eradication of unfit dwellings, progress has been made and a total of 17 houses were demolished and two more closed for human habitation. Though no houses were built by the Council, 20 dwellings have been re-let, that have become vacant. Private enterprise provided 18 new houses. A plan for 20 new bungalows was started and it is anticipated that when this is completed, some Council tenants will transfer from larger houses, thus releasing these for family occupation. The number of applicants for such bungalows is great and at the end of the year there were 50 on the list. A plan for the modernisation of 120 pre-war Council houses was also completed.

The water continues to be supplied by the Mid-Northants Water Board and is of great benefit to the town.

The new sewage disposal works which were completed in 1959 and designed to deal with a population of 6,000 have now reached the stage when they are being overloaded. A full report on the plans to deal with sewage is included in the report on sewage disposal.

It is evident from the foregoing report that the environmental health of the town is satisfactory and with the provision of a fine new town, the prospect is excellent. Constant vigilance remains necessary, however, in the control of infectious disease, in supervision of shops, factories, atmospheric pollution and especially in the handling of food. At the time of writing, the Aberdeen typhoid outbreak has recently occurred and has once again brought to light the great necessity for the strictest personal hygiene in the handling and preparation of food. Every person whose job involves contact with food should be aware of the inherent dangers to the public should they be lax in their personal cleanliness.

Finally, there remain those observations of a general nature, that a Medical Officer may make when given this annual opportunity to report

on the health of a community. It is a time for a general as well as a local appraisal of the trends which may be inimical to health and happiness.

In an era of prosperity, with full employment, little poverty, and a society constantly in receipt of extra benefits, the personal discipline imposed by the rigours of the past is no longer necessary. As a result new problems arise, and if health education is to be effective the public should be informed of these possible hazards.

It would appear that a prosperous society is not necessarily a mentally stable one, as in the sphere of mental health there is no evidence of a decline in morbidity. There is an increase of juvenile crime, and the violence of certain teenage groups would appear to be the result of a superabundant and misdirected energy. Family life, the lynch pin of a stable society, is often broken, leading to failure in later life, so often of the children of that family. The County Council sponsored this year, together with the Red Cross, a fine mental health project, in an endeavour to educate the public on this subject.

The toll of accidents, both in the home and on the roads, does not lessen, and the prevention of these accidents becomes a further aspect of mental health. The driver who sets out with the firm conviction that he will respect all other drivers, and who will retain a personal self-discipline on the road, is not the one who causes the accidents.

The regular taking of physical exercise, once imposed by necessity, declines further. Soon each family will possess a motor car and one can anticipate that exertion will cease to be part of the working life of the majority. It should, therefore, become the major leisure pursuit of society. The earlier incidence of arterial disease is very probably related to this lack of exercise, together with an over abundant and often unsuitable diet.

The ever rising incidence of cancer of the lung, showing each year a thousand more cases and related conclusively to cigarette smoking, appears to provoke little public response. Were such an increase due to smallpox or other infectious disease, there would be an outcry. In this field, it is certainly the duty of all who influence the young to make them aware of the potential danger of cigarette smoking.

I wish to express my continued thanks to Mr. Schofield, the Public Health Inspector for his diligent work throughout the year, to those who have contributed to the compilation of this report, to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for help and encouragement and to the County Medical Officer of Health for his ready co-operation in the supplying of information

JOAN M. ST. V. DAWKINS

Medical Officer of Health

August, 1964

## BOROUGH OF DAVENTRY

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### **Members of the Public Health Committee:**

Councillor T. R. Webb (Chairman)

Alderman L. B. Butcher (Vice-Chairman)

Aldermen W. G. S. Edwards, G. Williams

Councillors F. C. Horne, J. B. Moser, D. C. Tooby, L. E. Whitmee

### **Public Health Officers of the Borough of Daventry:**

Joan M. St. V. Dawkins, M.B.B.S., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Medical Officer of Health

Also holds the appointment of

Medical Officer of Health, Daventry and Rural District Council

Medical Officer of Health, Brixworth Rural District Council

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health and

County School Medical Officer

G. N. Schofield, R.S.I.J.B., M.A.P.H.I., Public Health Inspector

Certified Inspector of Meat and Foods

Shops Act Inspector

Petroleum Officer

# SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS 1963

Area (in acres) 3,633; Population 6,060; Number of separate dwellings occupied 1,907; Rateable value 1963 (April) £270,837; Product of a penny rate £1,125

## LIVE BIRTHS (Rate per 1,000 estimated population)

	Male	Female	Total	Rate	Rate for England & Wales
Legitimate	45	53	98		
Illegitimate	3	2	5	17.0	18.2
	48	55	103 (SR. 15.5)		

## STILL BIRTHS (Rate per 1,000 live and still births)

	Male	Female	Total	Rate	Rate for England & Wales
	—	3	3	28.3	17.3

## TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total	Rate	Rate for England & Wales
	48	58	106		

## INFANT DEATHS

	Male	Female	Total	Rate	Rate for England & Wales
Total	1	—	—	9.7	20.9
Legitimate	—	—	—	—	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—

## INFANT MORTALITY (Rate per 1000 live births)

	Male	Female	Total	Rate	Rate for England & Wales
Total	—	—	—	—	9.7
Legitimate	—	—	—	—	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—

## NEONATAL (1st 4 weeks)

	Male	Female	Total	Rate	Rate for England & Wales
Total	—	—	—	—	14.2
Legitimate	—	—	—	—	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	—	—	—	—	4.8%
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	—	—	—	—	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live births and still births	—	—	—	—	0.28

## DEATHS (all causes)

	Male	Female	Total	Rate	Rate for England & Wales
	47	26	73	12.04	12.2
				(SR. 9.3)	

# CAUSES OF DEATHS AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1963

	CAUSE OF DEATH	Total all Ages	Under 4 weeks	under 1 year	1	5	15	25	35	45	55	65	& over 75	& over 75
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	...												
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	M 3 F 1	—	—									1	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	M 4 F 2	—	—									1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	M 3 F 7	—	—									1	4
18.	Coronary disease, angina ...	M 8 F 3	—	—									2	2
20.	Other heart disease ...	M 9 F 6	—	—									7	5
21.	Other circulatory disease ...	M 2 F 1	—	—									1	1
22.	Influenza ...	M 3 F 2	—	—									1	2
23.	Pneumonia ...	M 6 F 1	—	—									2	3
24.	Bronchitis ...	M 2 F 1	—	—									1	1
31.	Congenital malformations ...	M 2 F 1	—	—									1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	M 2 F 2	—	—									2	3
34.	All other accidents ...	M 3 F 1	—	—									1	1
	TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M 47 F 26	—	—									6	12
													3	18

# SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS OVER PREVIOUS 5 YEARS

Year	Estimated	No.	Births		Deaths			All ages	Rate
			Crude	Under 1 year	No.	Rate			
1959	5290	105	19.8	2	19.0	93	17.6		
1960	5600	138	24.6	4	29.0	76	13.6		
1961	5820	127	21.8	—	—	86	14.7		
1962	5980	112	18.7	2	17.8	102	17.05		
1963	6060	103	17.0	1	9.7	73	12.04		
			(S.R. 15.5)					(S.R. 9.3)	

## **SECTION A**

### **NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS**

#### **AREA**

The acreage of the town is 3,633 and the population is now 6,060.

Daventry received its charter as a Borough from Queen Elizabeth I in 1576 and is, therefore, one of the Ancient Boroughs. During the 16th and 17th centuries the town thrived as a prosperous market town. In the 18th and 19th centuries it became a busy coaching centre. The coaching trade provided the main industry of whip making. With the disappearance of the coach, employment came from the boot and shoe industry, augmented later by the BBC transmitting station at Borough Hill.

During this period the character of Daventry changed little, with its wide rural boundaries and its central rather cramped area. However, since 1953-54 when the large tapered roller bearing factory of British Timken was established to the north of the town, the population has steadily increased and the character of the town is changing. The old town remains, but virtually a new town with well spaced modern dwellings has been built in the north and south. Now with the decision for acceptance as an overspill town for people from Birmingham, the town's growth will be considerable and the prospect is a stimulating one.

#### **POPULATION**

The estimated mid-year population, calculated by the Registrar General, was 6,060, representing an increase of 80 on the 1962 figure. Natural increase, excess of births and over deaths, was calculated to be 30.

#### **BIRTHS**

Live births numbered 103 giving a rate of 17.0 (S.R. 15.5) per 1,000 live births. The national rate is 18.2.

#### **INFANT DEATHS**

There was one death. This was in a child of 11 months, a Mongol with a congenital heart, and who died of lobar pneumonia.

#### **STILLBIRTHS**

There were three stillbirths.

#### **ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS**

Five illegitimate births took place during the year, four more than in 1962.

## MATERNAL MORTALITY

No maternal deaths were recorded during the year.

## DEATHS

This year, the Registrar General has listed the causes of death in groups of under one year, then in quindecades to 15 and thereafter in decades to 75 and over. Male and female deaths are also shown.

The vital statistics for the year show that there were 73 deaths compared with 102 the previous year, giving a Crude Rate of 12.04 compared with 17.05 for 1962. The Standardised Rate was 9.3 compared with that for England and Wales of 12.2. The Standardised Rate is calculated from the Registrar General's comparativity factor (0.77) which makes allowance for age and sex distribution of the population in different areas, and is adjusted specifically to take into account any residential institution in the district, especially of the aged, which applies particularly in this area.

The trend of principal causes of death continues towards the mainly degenerative and neoplastic conditions, and away from infectious diseases, now largely controlled by a wide number of antibiotic and other drugs. The large majority of deaths are also in the age group of 65 and over, only 15 deaths occurring under that age. Of these, 11 deaths were from diseases of heart and circulation or cancer.

The condition of atherosclerosis, which is usually present as an ageing process, is becoming more evident in the earlier years, especially in men. It is thought that the condition may be the result of civilisation and affluence: the majority living on a highly refined and plentiful diet, without the necessity to labour physically for food or work, and whose leisure may be spent, again without exertion. This lack of exercise, combined with the stress which modern life tends to exert may be the factors which contribute to the earlier incidence of arterial disease. It is important that the public should be aware that a sedentary life, combined with a plentiful diet, is harmful and efforts should be made towards an increase in physical exertion.

The prevention of accidents both in the home and on the roads presents a further perplexing problem. Nearly all home accidents are preventable, with a little care and forethought. Those involved are usually the young and the elderly. Mothers of young children should always be on the lookout for hazards, especially in relation to burns, scalds, electricity and accidental poisoning. Four old people in Daventry died last year from an accident; the aged have the problem of failing faculties, particularly of balance, and the necessity to warn them of the dangers of accidents and to devise their homes with a view to home safety, cannot be too strongly emphasised.

The toll on the road continues; it is fortunate this year that we have no deaths from the town, but the national figures do not reflect this happy state.

Finally, though the causes of cancer still elude us, one condition that of cancer of the lung is, without equivocation, related to cigarette smoking. Last year, 24,422 people died in England and Wales from cancer of the lung — an increase of 1,000 on the previous year's figures. Each year the toll mounts. Yet the consumption of cigarettes does not decline. It is the duty of all who influence the young, to keep them fully informed of the dangers of cigarette smoking, and these factors should be constantly reiterated to each succeeding generation.

## **SECTION B**

# **GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICE**

### **LABORATORY SERVICE**

The Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service is available for work in connection with the diagnosis and control of infectious diseases. It is situated adjacent to Northampton General Hospital. The co-operation and able service which is always provided is greatly appreciated.

### **AMBULANCE SERVICE**

General medical, surgical and infectious disease cases are moved by units of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, acting as agents for the County Council.

### **TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS**

An Infant Welfare Clinic is held in Daventry on the first and third Friday of each month at the Foundry Hall.

A Permanent Dental Clinic has been established at the Secondary Modern School and regular sessions are held.

### **TUBERCULOSIS**

Cases suffering from tuberculosis are treated at Creaton or Rushden hospitals.

The Tuberculosis After-Care Committee continued to serve both the Borough and the surrounding Rural District.

Since August 1955 a chest clinic service has been instituted at fortnightly intervals at the Danetre Hospital, and continues to be of great service to local patients.

### **NURSING AT HOME**

Health Visitors, District Nurses and Midwives are provided by the County Council. The services of a permanent full-time Health Visitor, resident in the town is much appreciated.

### **HOME HELP SERVICE**

This service is also provided by the County Council, and is of particular value both in illness, domiciliary maternity cases and for old people who may, with the assistance of a home help, remain at home rather than be sent to an institution.

### **HOSPITAL SERVICE**

All infectious disease cases, excepting only tuberculosis sufferers, are treated at Harborough Road Isolation Hospital, Northampton, while general medical and surgical cases receive treatment at Danetre Hospital, Northampton General Hospital or Hospital of St. Cross, Rugby.

## HEALTH EDUCATION

### COUNTY COUNCIL MENTAL HEALTH YEAR PROJECT

To mark the centenary of the Red Cross, which was celebrated this year, the County Council and members of the Red Cross co-operated in a mental Health Year Project. The objective was to educate, with the hope to influence the public outlook towards mental health.

Homes were visited by members of the Red Cross, and Health Visitors, who completed detailed questionnaires designed to reveal the public attitude to mental health. There then followed a period of intensive education throughout the County, when meetings, films visits and discussion groups were held. Broadcasts and television programmes, heard and seen on a national level were also organised. Finally, a further questionnaire was sent out, the results of which are now in the course of analysis. It is to be hoped that this fine project succeeded in influencing the public attitude in a favourable manner to those afflicted by mental illness or subnormality.

In conjunction with the above project, your Medical Officer, together with members of the nursing staff of the County Council arranged a meeting which was held at the Grammar School on November 22nd, the night of the assassination of President Kennedy. A large audience attended the meeting in spite of the tragic event, when the majority of the public remained at home awaiting further news. This was an indication of the interest which the public showed in the subject of mental health and was a further indication of the fine public spirit which is so often evident in this town.

Dr. the Hon. W. S. Maclay, one of the foremost figures in the field of mental health in the country, was the main speaker and both the County Medical Officer and his deputy also spoke. A lively discussion took place and it was felt that the people of Daventry and district were keenly interested in this subject.

### VISIT OF THE ANTI-SMOKING UNITS OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR HEALTH EDUCATION

Together with the Rural District Council, the Borough Council sponsored the visit in early May of the above units. A team visited the Grammar School, where the whole school and staff attended the demonstrations, and the Secondary Modern School, which provided a large audience. A comprehensive course was given on the dangers of cigarette smoking. The propaganda was directed mostly towards the teenage group of the population, and for this reason it was felt that school visits would make the best use of the units. The help and co-operation of the headmasters of both schools was much appreciated.

## **NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1947 Section 47 (Amendment 1951)**

No action was necessary under this Act during the year, though a number of old people were visited in their homes. In some cases hospital admission was arranged and accepted voluntarily without having recourse to Section 47.

### **SERVICES FOR OLD PEOPLE**

The following provide services for old people:—

**1. The National Health Service**

- (a) General Practitioner Service
- (b) Hospital and Specialist Services including the Almoner Service.

**2. The County Council**

(a) **The Health Department**

- 1. District Nurses
- 2. Health Visitors
- 3. Home Helps
- 4. Chiropody Service
- 5. Certain home equipment where necessary

(b) **The Welfare Department**

- 1. Part III accommodation and homes
- 2. Special services for blind, etc., and home fittings where necessary.

**3. The National Assistance Board**

Financial help where necessary

**4. The Borough Council**

Homes for the aged, flats and in some cases flatlets with Warden supervision.

**5. Voluntary Organisations**

These are particularly active in this area, and provide many services which include Meals on Wheels, Darby & Joan Clubs, chiropody, home visiting and holiday schemes. A report on the activities of the voluntary services follows:—

### **DARBY & JOAN CLUB**

We thank Mrs. M. Edwards for the following information:—

The membership of the Club remains high and usually 60 or more persons attend each Club session.

Club meetings are held each Friday afternoon and these take a form of a social meeting when games, etc. are played and afterwards a tea is provided by four W.V.S. helpers who give the food free of charge.

There is a charge of 4d. for each person attending and this covers the milk and tea; also each member pays a 1d. a week subscription. Outings are held four times each year and in addition there are several parties given for the old people. These are very well attended. A party is given by the W.V.S., by the Mayor, the Daventry & District Prize Silver Band and occasionally by one or two private people. Outside activities include visits to other clubs in the surrounding district and in addition an annual garden party is held when other clubs are sometimes entertained. The expenses for the outings come out of funds and here the excellent donations received makes this possible.

The W.V.S. also run a Chiropody Service and the cost of this is supplemented by the County Welfare Department. Changes have been made whereby the Chiropodist now visits the homes of elderly persons instead of attending the Club meetings. This new arrangement has worked very well as it was found that persons requiring attention could not always be present at the meetings and for obvious reasons this did not make for the best use of the service.

Twenty-nine members of the club went for a week's summer holiday to Clacton under the Northamptonshire County Welfare Committee who organised this at a cost of £6 per person, which covered all hotel and travelling expenses. The club organised a saving group and some of the older people saved up for holidays and Christmas. The following members of the W.V.S. are in charge:

W.V.S. Centre Organiser: Mrs. L. Jones

Club Leader: Mrs. M. Edwards

Treasurer: Mrs. J. H. Issott

Thanks are expressed to ladies of this organisation who, by their service, do so much to help the old people.

## MEALS ON WHEELS SERVICE

This service was first started in Daventry two years ago by the W.V.S. and has continued since that time. Meals are delivered twice a week to old folks at their homes and both the Borough Council and County Council make payment towards part of the cost of this service. Several men have come forward to help the W.V.S. in the delivery of these dinners and I am very happy to include this in my report as they use their own cars and give their time free of charge in carrying out this voluntary work.

## GENERAL REMARKS

Your Medical Officer of Health, having a special interest in the welfare of the aged and by virtue of her appointment both to the District and the County Council and by her relationship with other Medical

colleagues, endeavours to fulfil the function of co-operation and co-ordination between these many agencies. Many cases of breakdown can be prevented by early application of these services

Voluntary organisations have also requested that your Medical Officer should give lectures and talks and each invitation received is accepted and fulfilled.

## SECTION C

# SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

### WATER SUPPLY

The town received a very satisfactory supply of water throughout the year and no shortage occurred. The water was sampled each month by the staff of the Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board, under whose control this service operates. Laboratory results obtained showed the water to be clear and bright in appearance and of a satisfactory standard of bacterial purity, indicative of wholesome water, suitable for public supply purposes. The source of the water was the new Pitsford reservoir situated in pleasant countryside approximately four miles from Northampton. This water is pumped some 12 miles to Daventry to the Borough Hill storage reservoir which holds 1,500,000 gallons when full to capacity. The high level of this local storage reservoir makes for a very good water pressure throughout the town.

The water authorities consider their present supplies of water are ample to serve the growing needs of the town for the next few years and it is very reassuring from a health point of view to learn this, especially with the large expansion of the town now about to take place.

The water continues to be moderately hard, being measured at 120 parts per million degrees hardness and was free from plumbo-solvent action. Slight traces of iron were also found in the water and this was due to the presence of ironstone in the ground through which the water filters.

The Water Board carried out further works to extend water mains on new housing estates being built within the Borough. Apart from a few isolated farms which have their own spring or well supplies, all dwellings enjoy a main piped supply.

### DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Suitable treatment of premises where certain infectious diseases or verminous conditions occurred was carried out. Very good results were obtained by the use of liquid and powder spraying in dealing with trouble from insect pests.

### SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The whole of the town is served by main sewers with the exception of a few isolated dwellings in the outskirts of the area and these are nearly all provided with septic tanks.

The new sewage disposal works which were completed in 1959 and designed to deal with a population of 6,000 have now reached the stage when they are being overloaded. This has been brought about by subse-

quent changes of policy concerning development of the town and the building which has taken place. Instead of gradual development to a total population of 12,000 it is now intended to expand the population to 25,000 by 1981, hence, the need to revise completely the proposals for main drainage. Towards the end of the year the Council's Consulting Engineers had given a verbal report to the Council upon proposals for meeting the needs of such large scale development and it was expected that this report would soon be available for submission to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

A complete new Sewage Disposal Works site has been selected just outside the Borough boundary. This would appear to be a good site for a permanent Disposal Works as it will meet all the requirements considered necessary for health, also because of its remote position it will not interfere with future areas of development and will allow, if necessary, for additions to be made to the Works.

It is anticipated that the first stage of the new Sewage Works will come into operation in three years time. As over 1,000 new houses and certain factories will have been built by that date, provision will have to be made to deal with additional flows of sewage and this matter has also been fully considered. Temporary works are therefore being planned to effect suitable treatment of this extra quantity of sewage during the interim period.

In addition this comprehensive scheme for treatment of the actual sewage, it is also necessary to lay new sewers to those areas being developed, and this work has already been phased in relation to its importance.

At the present time, in order to obtain a satisfactory effluent for discharge to the reservoir, the effluent from the works is re-circulated from the humus tanks back to the filter beds. This measure is only a temporary expedient and it is hoped that the Ministry of Housing and Local Government will approve the Council's proposals at the earliest possible moment as it is vital for the health of the town to have proper drainage and sewage disposal to meet with the influx of population expected with the expansion scheme.

## RODENT CONTROL

One part-time rodent operator was engaged on this work and very good results were achieved in dealing with infestations of rats and mice. This service was provided free at domestic premises while a charge of 7s. 6d. per hour, inclusive of bait, was made for work to other premises.

The number of treatments against rodents on factory premises continues to increase and as a check, bait is laid throughout these premises on certain occasions during the year. By this method it is possible to deal

with any trouble in the early stages and this is obviously the time to act, not only in the interests of economy for both the Council and the occupiers of premises who are charged for this work but also to safeguard the health of employees in the factories.

The sewer manholes were baited during the year and revealed the presence of rats at seven points. Suitable treatment cleared these pockets of infestation. The Council's refuse tip was under continuous treatment with the use of permanent baiting points.

The following is a summary of infestations treated during the year.  
i.e.

		No of Treatments	No of Visits
Dwelling Houses	...	33	104
Business Premises	...	15	34
Local Authorities	...	4	25
Agricultural	...	1	3

## REFUSE COLLECTION

The weekly refuse collection service was maintained from all dwellings within the town and once again there was little complaint concerning this work. The operation of the new rear loading vehicle for collection helped to improve the conditions for emptying bins and thus avoid most of the nuisance arising from dust and paper being blown about when dustbins are emptied by the collectors. The refuse was disposed of at the Dodford Road tip, which is conveniently sited, as it lies approximately three miles from the town.

The tip surface was sprayed regularly during the summer to prevent fly breeding and special attention given to deal with infestation by rodents.

The Council has now issued 93 dustbins to occupiers of dwelling houses under the Municipal Dustbin Scheme and an annual charge of 7s. 6d. is made for each bin supplied. Some of the first dustbins to be issued in 1954 are still in use and this has more than justified the implementation of such a scheme, and it has also been a great help in overcoming the difficulty of ensuring that proper bins are provided to dwelling houses.

More local authorities are now becoming interested in the new paper sack storage containers in place of metal dustbins. The Public Health Committee are considering reports into this matter and in view of the large number of houses to be built for expansion purposes, it is well to give early consideration to this type of refuse container.

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES

No premises were registered for this purpose during the year.

## **MOVEABLE DWELLINGS**

Five applications were made for the renewal of licences to station caravans upon sites within the Borough and all were granted. These caravans are situated on individual sites in different parts of the town and periodic inspections were made throughout the year to check the standard of hygiene. At all times conditions were found to be very satisfactory in respect of both the caravans and the sites.

## **PETROLEUM REGULATION ACTS 1928-1936**

Twenty-one licences were issued by the Council authorising the storage of petroleum spirit at premises within the Borough. During the year two existing filling stations were completely rebuilt. One of these stations was previously fitted with swing arms serving over the public footpath and this somewhat hazardous mode of handling petrol has now disappeared with the redesign of these premises and provision of an adequate forecourt.

Numerous visits were made while construction works were in progress and air pressure tests applied to the new tanks before being brought into use.

Following the adoption of the Model Code in 1958, existing tanks were required to be tested at regular intervals and since then records have been brought up-to-date for all premises. It is now the practice, when licences are issued, to attach a letter drawing attention to any petrol tanks which are due to be tested during the coming year.

The formation of "The Midlands Petroleum Acts Administration Group" has been a progressive move in that it enables officers from all authorities in the Midlands to meet and discuss mutual problems and standards and I am pleased to record that the Borough Council has become associated with the Group.

## **PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS**

The new open-air swimming pool was opened to the public from 4th May to 29th September, and continues to be a popular attraction especially for the children. The surroundings are laid out pleasantly, and now with the addition of a toddlers' paddling pool and a cafe, pleasure is afforded to the whole family during the summer time. That a town the size of Daventry should be able to possess such a pool is indeed a fine achievement, and this has been effected by the work of the Daventry and District Swimming Pool Association, who have been responsible for collecting funds over the past six years, and have raised over £28,000 towards the actual cost of £42,000 for the construction of the pool.

Regular samples of the water were taken and the laboratory results showed that the water was of a very high standard of clarity and bacterial purity.

## SECTION D

### HOUSING

The Borough Council has built over 614 units of accommodation since the war and though no houses have been built for the past two years, the Housing Committee has been in a position to re-let 20 dwellings which became vacant, to families on the waiting list. Further transfers have been arranged between tenants on the Council estate to make the best use of the accommodation available. There are many instances of under occupation of both private and Local Authority property and when the present scheme for 20 new bungalows for elderly persons is completed, it is anticipated that some Council house tenants will transfer from three bedroom houses and thus release these larger houses for re-letting to younger families. The number of applicants for such bungalows is now greater than that for any other type of accommodation. At the end of the year there were 50 applicants.

It is likely that more than 1,000 dwellings will be built within the next five years for housing families from Birmingham under the Expansion Scheme. The experience gained by the Housing Committee in housing 275 families for the British Timken factory since 1954 will no doubt be of benefit in tackling the task that lies ahead in making preparations to receive such a large influx of persons coming to live and work in the town.

Eighteen private dwellings were built during the year and further houses were under construction at the end of the year.

Very good progress was achieved by the Public Health Committee in dealing with the problem of unfit houses and a total of 17 dwellings were demolished and two more closed for human habitation. One hundred and one unfit houses have been dealt with under the Council's slum clearance programme since 1955 and a further 37 dwellings have still to be dealt with. The worst houses were condemned in the early stages of the slum clearance programme for obvious reasons, but now the timing of a demolition order must be given special consideration if hardship is to be avoided for some of the older tenants living in these type of cottages.

Plans for modernisation of the 120 pre-war Council houses were completed and this will afford the tenants the same facilities as others in post-war houses when the work is complete.

Four applications were received from the owners of private houses for Standard Grants towards the cost of modernisation and all were approved. Two enquiries were received with regard to the improvement of houses within the Central Area and the owners were advised

to delay any expenditure upon the properties until the plan for the re-development of the centre of the town has been finalised.

A list of the different types of accommodation built by the Borough Council is given hereunder:—

#### PRE-WAR

	Total
2 bedoomed houses	20
3 bedoomed houses	86
4 bedoomed houses	14
	<hr/> 120

#### POST-WAR

Flats	61
2 bedoomed houses	152
3 bedoomed houses	358
4 bedoomed houses	26
Bungalows	13
Maisonettes	4
Shops	5
	<hr/> 619
	<hr/> <hr/> 739
	<hr/>

#### HOUSING STATISTICS—NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR

	Houses
By the Local Authority	... ... ... ... ... Nil
By other Bodies or Persons	... ... ... ... ... 18

# HOUSING STATISTICS

## NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR

### I INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

1. (a) Number of dwellinghouses inspected for Public Health or Housing Act defects ... ...	94
(b) Number of Inspections made ... ...	261
2. Number of dwellinghouses unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable expense:—	
(a) Number scheduled in original Slum Clearance programme 1955 ... ... ... ...	117
(b) Number of additional houses found to be unfit as a result of re-survey made during 1961 ...	21
(c) Number dealt with 1955-1963 ... ... ...	101
(d) Remaining unfit houses ... ... ...	37

### II HOUSES DEMOLISHED

#### *In Clearance Areas*

	HOUSES DEMOLISHED	DISPLACED during year	
		Persons	Families
1. Houses unfit for human habitation ...	4	4	4
2. Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc. ...	4	4	4
3. Houses on land acquired under Sec. 43(2) Housing Act, 1957 ...	4	4	4

#### *Not in Clearance areas*

4. As a result of formal or informal procedure under Sec. 16 or Sec. 17(1) Housing Act, 1957 ...	9	18	5
5. Local authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health ...	6	8	3

6. Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts ... ... ...	—	—	—
7. Unfit houses included in unfitness orders ...	—	—	—
7a Number of dwellings included above which were previously reported as closed ...	2	—	—

### III UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED

8. Under Sec. 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957 ...	2	—	—
9. Under Sec. 17(3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957	—	—	—
10. Parts of buildings closed under Sec. 18 Housing Acts, 1957 ...	—	—	—

### IV UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED

	By Owner	By Local Authority
11. After informal Action by Local Authority ... ... ...	41	—
12a After formal notice under (a) Public Health Acts ... ... ...	—	—
12b Sec. 9, 16 and 24 Housing Act, 1957	1	—

### V UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (Housing Act, 1957)

NIL

### VI PURCHASE OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT (in clearance areas)

NIL

### VII HOUSING ACT 1957 PART IV — OVERCROWDING

1. (a) Number of dwellinghouses overcrowded at end of year ... ... ...	1
(b) Number of families dwelling therein ... ...	2

1. (c) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	8
2. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ... ... ... ...	1
3. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ... ... ... ...	1
Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	9
4. Number of cases in which dwellinghouses became overcrowded again after Local Authority had taken steps to abate same ... ... ... ...	Nil

#### RENT ACT, 1957

Number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair ...	Nil
Number of Certificates granted ... ... ...	Nil

#### IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

(a) <b>Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958 as amended by House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 and Housing Act, 1961</b>	
Number of applications for Discretionary Grants ...	Nil
Number of applications approved by Local Authority	Nil
Number of applications refused by Local Authority	Nil
(b) <b>House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 and Housing Act, 1961</b>	
Number of applications for Standard Grants ...	4
Number of applications approved by Local Authority	4
Number of applications refused by Local Authority	Nil

## SECTION E

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD AND DRINK

All food shops and premises used for the preparation of food for sale to the public, were inspected at regular intervals to ensure that they were kept up to the standard required by the Food Hygiene Regulations. In only one instance was it necessary for the Public Health Committee to issue a warning to a trader regarding the sale of food which did not comply with the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

There have been many improvements in the food trade since the advent of the Food Hygiene Regulations in 1955 and these have been accompanied by developments in the technique and knowledge of food hygiene by manufacturers. It is necessary for adequate safeguards to be provided to control the proper production, preparation and packaging of food in view of the present trend of scientific developments carried out by industry. Here, officers of the Public Health Department have an ever-increasing task, as the difference is sometimes very great between the rigid hygiene control exercised in food factories, as compared with that occasionally found at retail level. It follows that when visits are made to food premises, they are, of necessity, equally concerned with the hygiene education of persons engaged as food handlers.

No animals were slaughtered within the Borough during the year. Several small slaughterhouses were in use before the war, but these have all been closed down, the last one being the Warwick Street slaughterhouse which were discontinued in 1961.

All premises registered for the sale of ice-cream were inspected frequently and samples of "quick freeze" ice-cream were taken and these were reported by the Laboratory to be Grade I. Ice-cream vehicles were checked whenever possible while touring the housing estates. In several instances these vehicles were found to be below standard, but in all cases, steps have been taken to rectify this.

All milk supplied in the town was sold under the designation "pasteurised," "sterilised" or "tuberculin tested" and licences were issued by the Council to shopkeepers, to permit the sale of bottled milk from their premises. No complaints were received regarding milk purchase by members of the public and this was an improvement on the position of previous years.

Under powers conferred by the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, samples of various foods including milk were taken by the Staff of the Northamptonshire County Council and details of the samples taken are given hereunder:—

# SAMPLES TAKEN IN THE BOROUGH OF DAVENTRY DURING THE YEAR 1963

Milk	22
Meat Products	7
Fish Products	2
Cream	2
Fruit	1
Soft Drinks	1
Spirits	6
Butter	1
Lard	2
Sweets	1
Bread and Butter	1
Pastes	1
Cake	1
Cheese	1
<hr/>	
TOTAL	49
<hr/>	

## REMARKS

In spite of an increase in the number of samples taken in the Borough all of them have been reported by the Public Analyst to be genuine as to quality and all have been correctly labelled and have complied with all other requirements.

In accordance with the arrangements made with the Public Health Department, there will be an increase in the number of samples of sausages taken during 1964 and details of these will be reported separately.

## SALE OF FOOD (WEIGHTS AND MEASURES) ACT, 1926

Two thousand and eleven articles of food were checked for weight or measure compared with 1,683 for last year. Only six articles were found to have slight deficiencies and this represents a proportion far below the average for the County.

## SECTION F

# PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

There was a considerable increase in the notification of infectious diseases, the numbers rising to 207 from the low figure of 61 last year. This was largely due to the biennial incidence of measles. No serious outbreak of any sort occurred in the town. Once again no case of poliomyelitis has occurred. Two cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified.

### PERIOD DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Measles	...	2	52	91	5	3	4	1	1	—	—	—	158
Whooping Cough	...	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	1	7	3	—	16
Scarlet Fever	...	1	1	3	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	8
Pneumonia (Acute primary)	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	3
Sonne Dysentery	4	3	—	1	5	4	1	1	—	—	1	—	19
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
TOTALS	...	7	56	94	8	9	11	4	5	9	3	1	— 207

## MEASLES

There were 158 cases, the majority occurring in February and March.

This disease though highly infectious, is now like scarlet fever following a more benign course and seldom showing serious complications. However in the more delicate, and occasionally normal children, the unpleasant complications of ear or eye infections or pneumonia still occur. These are however, usually soon and effectively dealt with by the large number of antibiotics that are now available.

## **WHOOPING COUGH**

Sixteen cases were notified. This is another condition which is becoming largely more benign, but in some cases can be distressing, and in infancy, a serious illness. Protection to this disease is often by triple vaccination, together with tetanus and diphtheria.

## **SCARLET FEVER**

Eight cases were notified. This disease continues in its mild phase. Its principle interest is that it gives a rough indication of the amount of streptococcal infection in the community.

## **SMALLPOX**

There were no cases. The incidence of vaccination rose last year as public reaction to the cases of imported smallpox was considerable. It is probable that there will be a fall this year. The vaccination of children is still necessary and should be carried out sometime during the first two years of life, preferably between the first and second year.

## **DIPHTHERIA**

There have been no cases of diphtheria in Northamptonshire since 1956. There is therefore with each successive year of freedom from infection, a diminishing recollection of the dangers of this infection. Mothers without knowledge of the disease feel a false security and may fail to have their children immunised. That this is a dangerous situation cannot be too strongly stressed, only by keeping up the numbers of children immunised can the disease be kept in check. It is the duty of all parents to have their children immunised, and if they fail to do so, they neglect their children's welfare.

## **POLIOMYELITIS**

Once again there have been no cases, and this freedom can be ascribed to immunisation as the decline in incidence has occurred concurrently with vaccination. The oral Sabin vaccine is now used which gives a longer lasting immunity than the Salk or injected variety. A drink of syrup or a lump of sugar is also much more acceptable to the young patients than the previous needle prick.

## **SONNE DYSENTERY**

There were 19 cases. This condition remains occasionally endemic in the town, but as extreme vigilance is always exerted on a notification, all cases have been confined to family attacks only, with no spread.

## **FOOD POISONING**

One case occurred of *Salmonella Typhimurium*. This was in a schoolgirl. The source of infection was never positively ascertained. The girl had been away prior to becoming infected, but also one case,

infected with the same organism was found at the same school. This was in a boy, with no obvious contact with the girl. The boy lived in the Rural District, and it is not possible to conjecture whether he was the source of infection. As two cases had occurred both attending the same school, extensive investigations were made, particularly concerning the school meals staff. No positive results were obtained and it would appear that no member of the school staff or pupils were infected. The girl unfortunately became a carrier. She was taking her G.C.E. Examinations, was an intelligent girl with a good home background, and under the strictest hygiene was allowed to attend school. This was with the full co-operation of the staff and with the approval of the Principal School Medical Officer. Infection took place in May and the girl was still positive until the end of August.

## PNEUMONIA

There were three notifications and three deaths from pneumonia.

## RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS

Three deaths are recorded from influenza, and seven from bronchitis. The respiratory infections are now seldom a cause of death except as a terminal event but remain a considerable cause of ill health. These are still the highest cause of loss of working hours, and bronchitis, nasal catarrh and sinus infections still are a source of much disability.

## INFECTIOUS HEPATITIS

The Minister of Health approved, and all District Councils of the County agreed that Infectious Hepatitis should become locally notifiable as from July 1st, 1962. Accordingly all general practitioners were informed by letter and by public advertisement.

There were no cases.

## VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Children are offered immunisation to the following diseases:—Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Poliomyelitis and Smallpox in the earlier years. These procedures are carried out by the General Practitioners or by the County Council at their Child Welfare Clinics.

Figures are not available this year of the numbers immunised in the District. The County Council will include these in their statistics for the year.

All children are offered vaccination against tuberculosis at the age of 13 years. There is a good response to this offer and large numbers are vaccinated each year in the schools.

## TUBERCULOSIS

There were two new cases of tuberculosis. One was in a male aged 59, the other, a housewife aged 37. There were also three inward transfers, two females and one male.

### Tuberculosis After Care Committee

The local After Care Committee continues to do very good work to help tuberculosis patients and their families and is worthy of mention in this report.

#### Age and sex distribution of new cases and deaths 1963

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Other		Pulmonary		Other	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
45-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 plus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
 TOTAL	... ...	1 —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —

#### Cases on Register at 31st December, 1963

Designation	Males			Females			Total
	Pulmonary	Other	Pulmonary	Other	Pulmonary	Other	
Notified in 1962	... ...	1 —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	2
Inward Transfers	... ...	1 —	— —	— —	2 —	— —	3
Deaths	... ...	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	—
Cured	... ...	2 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	2
Removals	... ...	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	—
Remaining	... ...	17 —	4 —	19 —	1 —	— —	41

## SECTION G

# FACTORIES ACT 1961

### Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act 1961

#### Part I

#### INSPECTION FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

	No. on Register	Written Inspections	Occupiers Notices	Number of Prosecuted
(i) Factories without mechanical power ...	14	16	1	—
(ii) Factories with mechanical power ...	34	49	3	—
(iii) Other premises under Act (excluding outworkers' premises)	16 — 64	37 — 102	2 — 6	— — —

#### CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

No. of cases in which defects were found	Found	Ref. to Remedied	Ref. by M.H. Insp.	No. of H.M.I. Prosecutions
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temp. (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Vent. (S.4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	... ... —	— — —	— — —	— — —
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	1	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not relating to Outworkers)	... — —	— — —	— — —	— — —
Total	5	4	—	—

## Part VIII — Outworkers

Number of outworkers registered during the year ... 2

In these two cases the work was in connection with the making of wearing apparel (i.e. Boot and Shoe trade). Both premises were suitable for the carrying out of such work.

## SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S VISITS DURING THE YEAR

### Housing:

No. of inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	261
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	8
Drainage, W.C.s, Sinks, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	41
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	...	...	...	...	...	139
Food and Drugs and ancillary provisions	...	...	...	...	...	78
Food—Inspection and Condemnation	...	...	...	...	...	17
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	60
Petroleum Licensing and Supervision	...	...	...	...	...	52
Refuse Collection	...	...	...	...	...	12
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	6
Verminous Premises and Infestations	...	...	...	...	...	7
Infectious Disease and Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	22
Pig keeping and other animal complaints	...	...	...	...	...	14
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	24
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	6
Theatres, Hotels and Places of Entertainment	...	...	...	...	...	12
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	32
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	14
Temporary Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	22
Interviews and visits to Housing Applicants and Tenants of Council Houses	...	...	...	...	...	374
						1,201



